

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 8-9, 12, 14 and 21-22 are now in this application. Claim 1 is amended.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The Examiner indicated that a sensor signal, besides a DC sensor signal, is implied in the claim, and further indicated that the terms “AC” and “DC” in the claim have been read as meaning that a power conversion between “alternating current” and “direct current” is taking place in the sensor circuitry. On the contrary, the terms “DC sensor signal” and “AC sensor signal,” as used in the rejected claim, are used merely as labels to identify the outputs provided from “DC sensors” and “AC sensors,” rather than implying that additional functional limitations not described in the specification should be read into claim. Specifically, the terms “AC sensor” and “DC sensor” are understood by one of ordinary skill in the art as referring to a particular type of sensor powered by an AC power source or DC power source, respectively, and having a corresponding AC sensor output and DC sensor output, also as understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. This is described in the Background section of the present application at page 1, lines 18-25. In addition, the terms “DC sensor signal” and “AC sensor signal” were clarified directly in the claim by the limitations “comprising either a current sourcing or current sinking output” and “comprising a switching output” following the respective terms.

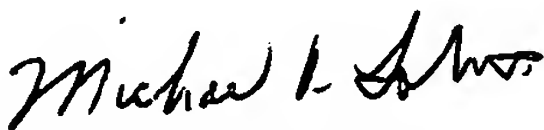
In order to eliminate the possibility of confusion in interpreting the claim, and to address the Examiner’s objection, the terms “DC sensor signal” and “AC sensor signal” have been deleted from claim 1, while retaining the clarifying language of the outputs provided on the first and second sensor leads as sufficient to support the claimed operation of the sensor interface. The present amendment addresses the rejection applied to claim 1 without adding new matter, nor are any limitations added for further consideration. Accordingly, in the event the present amendment is not considered to place the claims in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered for purposes of appeal, as reducing the issues for consideration and not requiring consideration of material not already presented in the claims.

It is noted that claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. However, the rejection of this claim was based on an interpretation applied to claim 1 in relation to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In view of the amendments to claim 1 addressing this rejection, as described above, it is believed that the rejection of claim 6 is now moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 6, 8-9, 12, 14 and 21-22 of the present application are in condition for allowance.

If the present amendment raises any questions or the Examiner believes that an interview would facilitate prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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